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IN THE CLAIMS

The claims stand as follows:

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55. (Previously Presented) A method of accessing a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to a computer, comprising:

receiving an indication of a number of features of said subject multi-dimensional database to be identified;

performing feature identification to identify the indicated number of features; and

creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein creating the index comprises creating a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

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57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein receiving the number of features to be identified comprises receiving a parameter value.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein performing feature identification comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein creating the index comprises storing deviation values for each of the identified number of features.

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61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for accessing a subject multi-dimensional database, comprising:

a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores a subject multi-dimensional database; and,

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving an indication of a number of features to be identified, performing feature identification on the multi-dimensional database to identify the indicated number of features, and creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.

62. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

63. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the number of features to be identified is received as a parameter value.

64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein feature identification comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.

66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the index stores deviation values for each of the identified number of features.

67. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer

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and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to access a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to the computer, comprising:

receiving an indication of a number of features to be identified in said multi-dimensional database;

performing feature identification to identify the indicated number of features; and

creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.

61 68. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein the number of features to be identified is received as a parameter value.

70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein feature identification comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

71. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 70, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.

72. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein the index stores deviation values for each of the identified number of features.